

Message Text

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11
ACTION EA-10

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R 110646Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6355
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, RP, MY
SUBJECT: MARCOS DENOUNCES "FOREIGN MERCENARIES" IN MINDANAO

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY: IN SPEECH BEFORE MILITARY AUDIENCE PRESIDENT MARCOS DENOUNCED ACTIVITIES OF "FOREIGN MERCENARIES" IN MINDANAO WHICH HE SAID REVEALED BY NEW EVIDENCE IN PAST WEEKS. ALTHOUGH CLEARLY REFERRING TO "SECESSIONIST PLOTS" PUBLICIZED AS RESULT OF SABAH CONTROVERSY, MARCOS DID NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION MALAYSIA, SABAH OR TUN MUSTAPHA. BY EMPHASIZING EXTERNAL THREAT, PRESIDENT UNDERScoreD CONTINUING NEED FOR "CRISIS GOVERNMENT" AND SACRIFICES BY MILITARY WHO ARE BEARING BRUNT OF WAR IN SOUTH. AT SAME CEREMONY PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED DECREE FORMALIZING INTEGRATION OF PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY AND LOCAL POLICE FORCES (BEING REPORTED SEPTEL). END SUMMARY.

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1. IN AUGUST 8 SPEECT AT CAMP CRAME MARKING 74TH

ANNIVERSARY OF PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY (PC) PRESIDENT MARCOS DENOUNCED ROLE OF "FOREIGN MERCENARIES" IN MUSLIM REBELLION. ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT DID NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION MALAYSIA, SABAH OR TUN MUSTAPHA, HE WAS OBVIOUSLY REFERRING TO LATTER'S ALLEGED SECESSIONIST DESIGNS, PUBLICIZED AS RESULT OF CURRENT SABAH CRISIS. ACCORDING PRESIDENT, "THE CONFIRMED REPORTS ONLY A FEW WEEKS AGO OF FOREIGN DESIGNS ON OUR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY CONFIRM OUR LONG-STANDING BELIEF THAT OUR TROUBLES IN MINDANAO SPRUNG OUT OF AND ARE ENCOURAGED BY FOREIGN MERCENARIES . . . NEVER BEFORE HAVE WE KNOWN WITH SUCH CERTAINTY THAT THESE FORCES COVET PORTIONS OF OUR LAND AS THE FUTURE BASE FOR THE CREATION OF A NEW STATE IN THE SOUTH."

2. PRESIDENT FOLLOWED FIRE-BREATHING REMARKS ON SECESSION WITH REITERATION OF GOP ADHERENCE TO POLICY OF COMPASSION AND DEVELOPMENT IN MINDANAO: "THE LUSTS OF FOREIGN MERCENARIES WILL NOT PANIC US INTO A VENGEFUL WAR OF RETRIBUTION AGAINST OUR BROTHER MUSLIMS WHO HAVE BEEN SEDUCED AND DECEIVED BY THESE FALSE PROPHETS." FOLLOWING SPEECH PRESIDENT CONFERRED MEDALS ON PC HEROS, INCLUDING POSTHUMOUS AWARDS FOR SEVERAL WHO DIED MINDANAO. HEAVY PRESS COVERAGE AUGUST 9 MADE IT CLEAR SPEECH REFERRED TO MUSTAPHA.

3. ALTHOUGH REFERENCE TO SECESSION WAS MAIN POINT OF SPEECH PRESIDENT ALSO ANNOUNCED DECREE FORMALIZING PC-POLICE INTEGRATION (BEING REPORTED SEPTEL) AND PAID STANDARD REFERENCE TO RANGE OF OTHER THREATS AND CHALLENGES FACING NEW SOCIETY.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH GUIDED PRESS HAS (WITH OBVIOUS RELISH) GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE TO RECENT SABAH EVENTS AND MUSTAPHA'S ALLEGED SECESSIONIST DESIGNS INVOLVING SULU AS WELL AS SABAH, THIS IS FIRST SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC REFERENCE TO THE SUBJECT BY MARCOS. SABAH IMBROGLIO GIVES HIM OBVIOUS OPPORTUNITY TO RESTATE ONE OF MAJOR JUSTIFICATIONS FOR "CRISIS GOVERNMENT" (NARTIAL LAW). HIS EMPHASIS ON GRAVITY OF EXTERNAL THREAT IS ALSO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTLY DESIGNED TO REASSURE A KEY MILITARY AUDIENCE THAT CONTINUING SACRIFICES IN MINDANAO FIGHTING ARE ESSENTIAL FOR NATIONAL SURVIVAL. SULLIVAN

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